



Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Virginia Sneezeweed *Helenium virginicum*

Common name • Virginia Sneezeweed
Scientific name • *Helenium virginicum*
State status • Threatened
Federal status • Threatened

Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. Please contact the Department of Conservation if habitat management information is needed. Because every project and location differ, following the recommendations in this document does not guarantee impacts will not occur to the species and additional information may be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations in this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.

Ecology

Limited habitat in two Virginia counties and eight southern Missouri counties make up this species' entire global range. There are currently about 25 occurrences of the species in Virginia and 60 in Missouri. Preferred habitat includes shorelines and plains around sinkholes, ponds, low lying fields and wet meadows. Several populations in Missouri are located on lands owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation and are protected. Five populations in Virginia are protected. The sneezeweed is a herbaceous, fibrous-rooted perennial that when mature, can reach a height of almost 4 feet. The flower ray petals are yellow and wedge shaped with three lobes at the ends. The central disk is nearly ball-shaped. Cluster of golden-yellow flower heads bloom from July to September. Peak flowering occurs in late July to early August. Primary insect pollinators are believed to be bees, wasps, butterflies, and hoverflies.

Reasons for Decline

Existing populations are primarily threatened by human-induced disruptions of hydrologic regimes, particularly by agriculture and residential land development. Exotic organisms may also pose threats to sneezeweed populations in the near future.

Specific Recommendations

The key to survival of this species is the protection of habitat and maintenance of natural hydrologic regimes.

- Restore natural hydrologic regime.
- The wetland areas where Virginia Sneezeweed is found need to be protected in order to protect its habitat.
- Avoid mowing of Virginia Sneezeweed populations the July through September growing period.
- Avoid filling, ditching, or removing natural substrates from sites where Virginia Sneezeweed occurs.
- Use of non-specific herbicides should be minimized.

General Recommendations

Refer to *Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Affecting Missouri Rivers and Streams*.

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or the [Missouri Department of Transportation Environmental Studies webpage](#) for additional information on recommendations.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

For species information:

[Missouri Department of Conservation](#)
Science Branch
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573-751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
Ecological Services
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203-0007
Telephone: 573-234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

[Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#)
Water Protection Program

P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573-751-1300, 800-361-4827

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816-389-3990

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

EPA Region 7 Water Division
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
Telephone: 913-551-7977

Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or Local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.